The Season of The Cherry Trees

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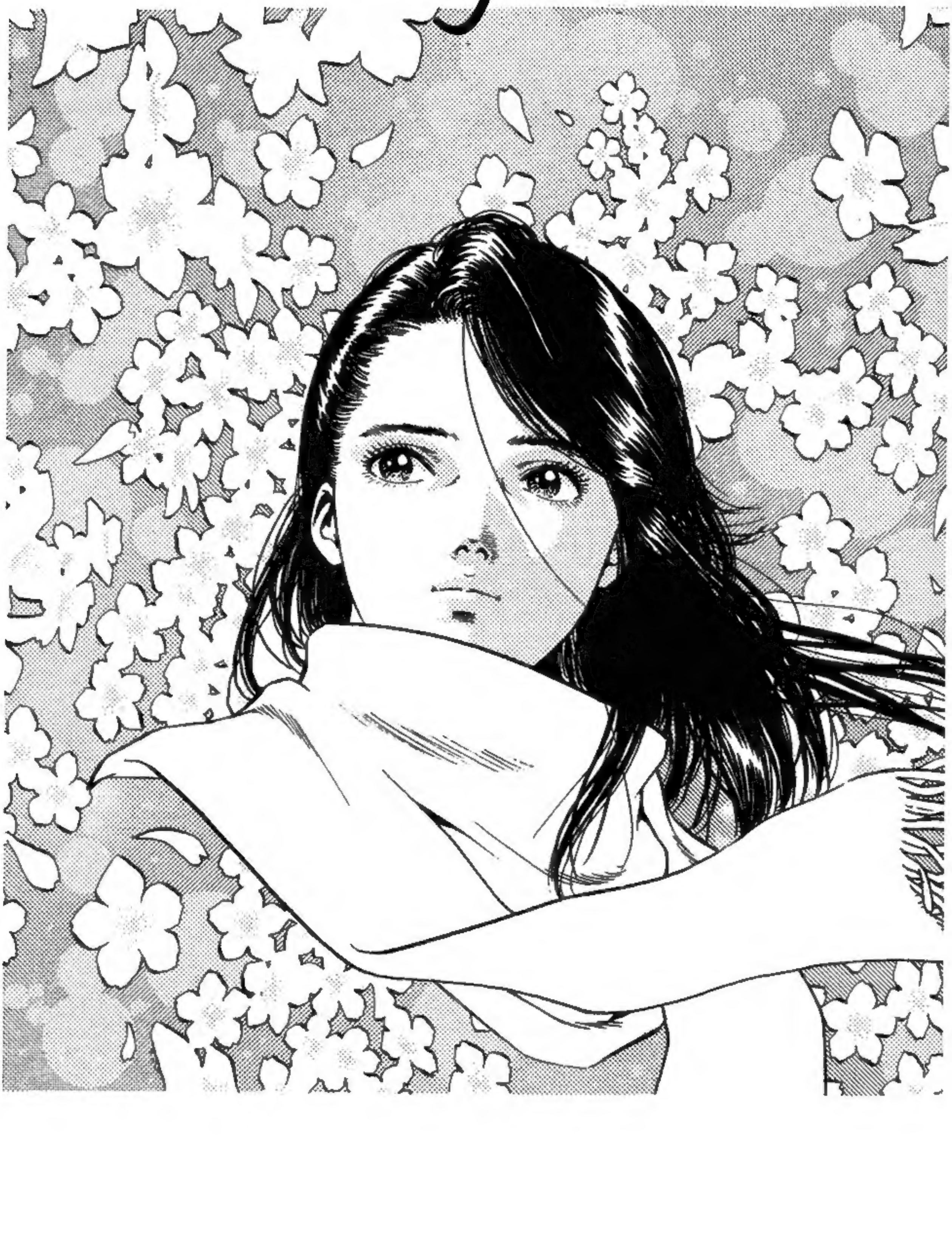

Those men, who unfortunately have a tendency to forget to love them...

Do you know that plants, like human beings, have a soul? A generous and benevolent soul which allows them to understand and harmonize with the heart of men.

We have never seen such a florist in our small town.

It has been 2 weeks since a new florist settled next door.

This place, once a wasteland, was suddenly covered with flowers.

What an impressive shop for a travelling florist!!

And among these flowers sat a huge trailer truck.

Good bye Daddy!

But above all...

Alright let's go!!

But today ...

SSooo

And although I don't know why, I'm the only one in our class to which she hasn't spoke to yet.

Sarah Nishikujo. It's been two weeks since she has arrived in my school.

Look here Masakii !!!

Phew ...

CRAC

Waahh

GRAAAO

SWiT

Wəh... əəh...

Bye mommy.

You always do as you please.

Hey wait!!

DOOUM

Idiot, how many times did I tell you not to climb up this cherry tree?!

Oww Oww ...

Don't waste your time saying hello to a tree!! You're gonna be late!!

LOUM

GOON

Oops.

Well, I have to go!

Make us beautiful flowers this year.

HUM!

no matter what!!

Sarah will talk to me today,

If this tree is rotting or not...

I wonder ...

...

PFF. What an unbearable kid...

SSHH

We're used to picking cherries every year, but it doesn't look like it can grow them anymore.

But what will we say to Masaki? Don't Forget that he considers this tree as his saviour.

That tree... it suffered From those temperatures two years ago, and last year it didn't bloom any flowers.

Its branches are fragile and breakable... It can be dangerous, maybe we should cut it down.

...

Sa...
Sa...

Sa...
Saraa...
Ah...
!!

H...

H...
He...ll

...

Calm down,
Calm down!!

BUMPF...

H...
He...llo

Calm down, damn it!!

What did you do?! Don't you know that pulling a branch off a tree hurts it?!

What ?

BO BOM

To pull out a branch...?

But, no, I... Oh God, I goofed up.

VLIP...

OXΔ!!

Not a particularly good nor bad student, just the average...

Sarah Nishikujo, a girl who looks like the others...

She enjoys herself in an ordinary way.

She has friends like everybody else.

She's average at that too.

She doesn't have a gift for sports either.

She fascinates me!

I feel as if I was watching a grown-up.

and when I see her, daydreaming with such a distracted look,

I can't help but think that she's hiding something...

She's so "normal" that I can't help but think about her. It's as if she didn't want to attract attention...

Sarah Nishikujo.

Hem

My little Sarah.

Hi ♡ Hi

Sarah...

Am I in love? ♡

What am I raving about?

?!

Ye...

YES!!

...

Hrm ....

Heu... I... but...

Idiot !!

GLUP

Sakurai, since when are you called Sarah?

Moron !

You're silly!

HAHAHAHA

Ha Ha Ha

... For all that, I'm the only one who knows the moment when her eyes really light up with joy!!

DONG DONG DONG

5ème 2

Maybe I'm imagining things, but I get the impression that Sarah's avoiding me...

By-bye.

Yeah!

And about time too!

It's over!

Hello my friends, you look great.

...

You're such an impatient flower, aren't you? You couldn't wait for Spring ...

Hey ...

You're going to make us pretty flowers, aren't you ?

Hold on, Spring will come soon!!

When she speaks to those wild flowers...

BOUM

She looks so radient...

...

H.. Hi, you like flowers, don't you?

Now!! It's time to talk to her.

OH!

?!

...

PFF... of course I like flowers, I'm a florist!

I read in a book that flowers understand everything you tell them and that they have a heart... Is it possible?

You see, I'm interested in this subject. I like flowers too, come on answer me!!

IF it's true, can I communicate with them?

GRR

Be brave!! You've come this far, you can't give up.

Hey wait, about the flowers, is it true that they grow better when you speak to them?!

...

Well, we're going in the same direction, we are neighbours !

Why are you following me?

Euh... No I...

People who break tree branches don't like flowers!

Also, that cherry tree doesn't look like the tree of a nature lover!

You say that you like flowers but it's a lie!

That tree is so sad, it's dying!!

Wh...

Is it gonna die? Is that really what you said?! Is there something we can do...?

CRASH

...

No...

Woah~ !!

Let's go, right now!!

DASH

Yes ...

I know what we'll do, let's go see the tree! It's very important to me!

...

So? Do you understand why it feels bad?

Be quiet...

What? ...

... You said that this tree was very important to you, but that was a lie too!!

...?

And then it started to decay from the pieces where it was cut out.

It began to lose its strength so much so that it couldn't be able to feed correctly... As for making flowers...

Yes... We extended it when I was in 2nd grade, so what?

This house... You changed it a little, right?

At that time you must have cut quite a few branches! That's the reason why it bent over!!

No, it's impossi-ble...

GRR

...

So, you mean it's done for?!

...

This tree... Saved my life once.

It was making wonderful fruits as if it wanted to please us.

Every year, we'd have fun picking the cherries from the tree.

I'm going to die...

At least, that's what I thought!

Then, my foot slipped...

It was a long time ago but I remember, well... I was so busy with my picking that I went up too high.

PLAF

It seemed the tree, knowing that I was safe, was smiling at me kindly.

Sunbeams were going through the foliage... It was a wonderful sight... Really...

As if it wanted to protect me.

It was as if it was holding me tenderly.

It has always watched over us... It's part of my family!! That's why I don't want it to die!!

I've known it since I was born !!

When I do this, I feel like I can still feel that emotion.

I think that the tree loves you too.

It's really soft.

I really love this tree!!

It looks like you really do understand it. A few minutes ago, you knew that it was in a bad condition just by touching it...

...

Daddy is a real doctor For trees !!

Hey... would you like my father to examine it?!

Really?! Oh yes, please, let's go and ask him!!

Yes and he's able to work miracles!

A doctor ?

Daddy, it's me, I'm home!!

...

Alright.

Wait here, I'll go and fetch him!

...

It's still winter and all these flowers have bloomed and are glowing healthily...

It's strange ...

?

NYAH

Ouaah... Ooh... Ex... Excuse me!!

I... I... was just looking at the Flowers!!

Please don't hurt me!

HYEEH

OUAH

AH

...

FLOWERS

FLOWERS

A tree doctor ?

Hrm...

Whaat... Ooh... Yeah... That's it... Euh... Is it your dad ?!

What's the matter with you? He's my dad!

Are you sure that he's your dad? I thought he was a wrestler...

Sssoo...

Hehe... Meeting Sarah was so cool. I not only got to talk to her, but became friends with her too...

All thanks to my tree!!

While we're on the subject, Honey, didn't you have something to say to Masaki?

...

Yeah, he said he'll come and examine the tree tomorrow.

... Honey ...

...Euh I don't know what you're talking about...

Did you say that it was our fault that the tree got sick because we wanted to extend the house?

He doesn't look like he has anything to do with my frail, little Sarah!!

Hehe.

?

But what a huge and scary Father!!

...Oh Daddy... I just wanted to talk to you...

What's the matter Sarah?

It's always the same. There's always a child shrewder than the others, even when I try to be more "normal". There's always someone who understands.

You know... No matter how many times we move and I change schools...

That's true... but...

So, we'd better not get too involved ?

He was so tender with this tree...

...

That's the reason why I didn't want to speak to Masaki Sakurai but...

Yes ...

Do you think he under-stood?

And this tree... Whatever the price is, we won't just leave it in this condition, right?

...

When I touched the cherry tree and the hand of that child, I felt the strong bond of affection between them...

We can't give up on such a kind child...

NNH

What's wrong with me?

Hello.

Gasp ...

Ah, ah, yes, the boabab family I suppose...!!

Here's the... tree doctor... honey.

There's nothing to be scared of

It's the first stage of my dad's cure.

Daddy knows that trees have a heart too. That's why he tells it, "Don't worry, I'll cure you".

Oh, they vary! To give it medecine, to change the loam...

Tell me... what are these treatments you're talking about?

LOOK HERE BOY!

Hey, he's doing what you were doing! He's putting his hand on the tree, but what for?

To speak to it!

I only have one thing to say, listen carefully ...

Euh... Yes?

Your heart full of love for it...

This tree doesn't need medecine, what it needs above all to heal is...

SSHH

SSHH

My heart... Full of love...

Masaki, you're still here?! Do you want to be late ?!

I'm going!

...Heal fast please!

I need you!!

...

He's been doing weird things for a week, as if he really believed that nonsense that Florist told him!!

I've had enough of it!! Say something! He's late everyday!!

Bye, hold on !!

Take care and heal fast! ♡

Yes, nonsense !!

Nonsense ?

Ah, ha, ha. See you tonight!

To be honest, I do it everyday!

Oh no!? You too ?!

...A spring storm...

SSHHH

I think that we're going to have a good storm tonight!

Hm? Oh, I don't like these clouds... It seems that the wind has risen...

Woaaah... They're beautiful...

...Bah, apparently, nothing's changed ...!

And how is the cherry tree?

They honour you!!

Flowers have never grown so fast over here, how beautiful they are!!

...

I wish I could communicate with it too... Like you do with the flowers...

Oh no! ...

Oh boy!

For exemple, if this person has an accident or if something good happens to him, the plant will be sad or happy!!

This bond is sometimes so strong that, in spite of the distance between them, the plant is capable of knowing what this person feels, by a sort of telepathic contact.

Hey, did you know that the more a person loves a plant, the more stronger their bond becomes?

...

I'm sure that you and this tree have this bond. So don't worry, it understands you!!

If I could talk to my cherry tree, I would thank it for allowing me to become its friend.

What ?

He, he, he...

But what you said can work both ways... People are happy too when they see plants in good health!!

...

It seems crazy.

It's weird... It's as if you really understand flowers...

No... It's not that. It's just a story that daddy told me! ...Nothing else!!

But no...

But...

And if it was true...

...

SSH

HA

The cloudburst outside is raining at a record 150 mm an hour. We are told that the neighboyring river is about to run out of its bed.

SSH SSH

The speed of the wind is already at 70km/h and we fear a big storm.

BRONG

...

I wonder if everything will be okay... For the cherry tree...

BKO BOBKOO

SPASH SPASH

SPASH

Because of you my window is broken !!

That's enough now, if you don't want to cut it down, find another way!!

Yes, we will do what is necessary ...

Why do you keep this dead tree?!

What are you trying to do?!

No way!!

BAM

Masaki...

...

...

Dad, say some-thing!!

Don't do this!! I'm telling you that it's still alive!!

Not a word!! Let the Florists talk to the trees as much as they like, but the faster that tree gets cut down, the better it will be!

No, Masaki, it's rotting!! And because of it, we're getting problems from the neighbours...

Masaki !!

Masaki wait!!

But we have to yield to the facts!

You did... all you could!

We have no other choice...

No, I don't want to!!

This tree is important For me too Masaki, all my childhood memories are linked to it but...

Da... ddy

SHH

S-SH

S-SH

Masaki...

Masaki ?!

S SH

SLASH

Dad...
Mom...
Why...

PLASH

Damn
...

SNIF

Damn
...

PFF

PFF

PFF

SLASHH

...

SPOOOO

OH!

Oh...
Oh!! the
flowers...
Sarah's
flowers!

SSH

SSH

BRO...

SSH

SSH

He's usually not out so late, we're scared that something might've happened to him!

What's going on?

BOM BOM

Sorry to bother you but is our son in your house?

Well, I'll look for him with you!!

Sarah, you're in charge of the house!!

...

SSH SSH

SSH

SSH

Masaki is in danger !!

The tree... it's Frightened !!

Daddy wait!!

Sarah...
!!

SHH

SHH

SSH

No choice... Dad...

...

Why did you say Masaki's in danger? How do you know?!

This is no time to joke around!! We need to...

Calm down ...

S

So...

Why are you so agitated? What happened to Masaki ...?

...Tell me.

WOOSH

It's like a sort of resonance between them...?!

...The tree...

WOOOOO

So tell me: Where is he?

What happened to him?

Sir...

Thank... you...

...I see.

The river ...

He fell... downstream, he's under a bridge... he's unconscious...

PAF!

Oh no! With the storm, it must be uncontrollable! There's no time to waste!

The river ?!

I'm ok... I'm just... a little tired.

Sarah ...

You have to get to that bridge!!

Will you call the police or not?!

H-how did she do that?

...Who are you?!

...

PIN PON

PIN PON

BROOO

So why such a huge mobilisation?

What? Nobody has seen the child fall?

...

Not yet, and you over there?!

Have you found him?!

So she's the cause of this commotion ?

What a strange story... It's this kid who warned everybody.

Maybe she can read minds, I don't want any trouble with my wife!

I don't want to be changed into a ninja frog!

The whole neighbourhood saw her, a blue halo surrounded them!! She must be a kind of witch!

What?! You must be kidding. She knew by talking to a tree?

Hey.

Wait a minute, what's there?!

GROOO

There's something near the ladder!!

Point the light this way, hurry!!

There he is! It's him! The kid!! He's there!!

Masakiii !!

...

SHH

SSHH

I had pneumonia.

I wasn't hurt, but I was in the cold water for a long time.

At that time, I didn't know about the fuss around Sarah's power, which had saved me...

I was taken to the hospital, unconscious...

Masaki

I had a strange dream.

SHH

SSH

Summon up your strength.

Masaki...

Fever made me rave.

Think hard about it, fill your mind with it's image!!

This time, it's your turn to save the cherry.

Give its life back...

And with your heart full of love for this tree...

Sarah...

A few days later, I left the hospital.

...

What's going on Masaki... You're so pensive...

You cut it down, did you?

The cherry tree...

...Oh that ...You'd better see it by yourself.

?

The cherry tree!!

...My dream.

It... wasn't a dream!!

Look, it looks as if it was happy to see you!!

It had suddenly bloomed as if it knew that you were coming back and it wanted to show its joy.

...

You did...

It's you!!!

TAC

Sarah !!!

...I should...

have known...

Sarah...

Without looking back...

It's always like this, isn't it? ...You always have to leave...

BROOD

Sorry... Daddy.

I spread panic once again...

Like always ...

But maybe it's more painful for you this time...

We have plenty of time to figure it out!

BROOO

Where are we going Dad?

...

...I think we can drop the idea of cutting it down...

What happened was really crazy...

Ahaha.

Cut it down? In your dreams! That tree saved Masaki's life!!

I see it, but I don't believe it!!

But you're still among us!

You left without saying a word...

Later, I'll have children...

And when they will be old enough to climb this cherry tree to pick its fruits, I will tell them this story...

Then, they'll grow old and it will be their turn to tell their children the story of the cherry tree that watched over our family for generations...

The story of the cherry tree and the strange girl named Sarah...

The Season of The Cherry Trees [End]

"WESTERN CHERRY TREES"

TREES WITH HEIGHTS THAT VARY FROM 15 TO 20 METRES, WITH FLOWERS THAT BRANCHES OUT IN BOUQUETS. ITS FRUITS ARE EDIBLE. THE MOST COMMON SPECIES ARE CALLED "NAPOLEAN" AND "OTOU".

Under the Dapple Shade - The season of Cherry Trees

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